

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

against them, threatening them with the most fearful spiriti and temporal penalties, including the papal anathema and t proclamation of a crusade against them throughout the enti world. On their part, the Florentines were preparing vigorous to push on the campaign, alike against Albornoz in the March and against the Cardinal of Geneva, who was daily expected the Bolognese.

To the Eight, on June 28, Catherine wrote an empha letter, beseeching them not to turn back, but to approach t Pope with true humility of heart, " imploring life like the son tl: was dead." She complains strongly of the new tax upon the clerg if it is true that they have imposed it, as calculated to alienate the of the cardinals who desire peace and still further to inflame t anger of the Pope against them. " I tell you, dearest fathe and pray you not to impede the grace of the Holy Spirit, whic albeit you do not merit it, our sweet Christ on earth is dispos in his clemency to give you. And you would be putting me shame and reproach. For what save shame and confusion cou result, if I tell him one thing and you do quite another ? beseech you not to let it happen again. Nay, strive in word a deed to show that you desire peace and not war. I have spok to the Holy Father. He listened to me graciously, through Go(goodness and his own, and showed himself lovingly affect towards peace, acting like a good father in not so much co sidering the offence that his son has committed against him whether he has become humble, so that he may be able to pard him completely. My tongue could not tell how singularly gl he was. After I had talked with him for a good space of tin he said at the end of our conversation that, if what I had /s before him concerning you were so, he was ready to receive yi as his children, and to do in this matter what I should thi: right. It did not seem to the Holy Father that he should gi any more definite answer, until your ambassadors arrive. I z amazed that they have not yet come. As soon as they arrive shall be with them, and shall then go to the Holy Father ; anc will write to you according to how I find the matter proceedir